

## Message Text

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17

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ERDA-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01 NRC-05 EB-07 OES-03 /080 W

----- 032588

P 160100Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA JA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 518

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO JA FIVE SEVEN ZERO

COMFLEACT SASEBO JA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EWWT, JA

SUBJ: THE MUTSU ISSUE IN SASEBO

REF: 75 FUKUOKA 103 (DTG 120100Z) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, NEGOTIATIONS TO FIND PERMANENT HOME PORT FOR NUCLEAR-POWERED MUTSU HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR SEVERAL MONTH. CABINET SECRETARY IDE AND SCIENCE DIRECTOR SASAKI MET JANUARY 16, AT WHICH TIME IT WAS DECIDED TO ASK NAGASAKI PREFECTURAL GOVERNOR KUBO AND SASEBO MAYOR TSUKI TO ACCEPT REPAIR.

PAGE TWO RUADLTA6380 C O N F I D E N T I A L

SEVENTY-TWO OLD TSUJI PRESENTLY IN FUKUOKA FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS FOR ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECKUP, WHICH. ACCORDING TO PAPERS, MIGHT COMPLICATE ISSUE. ALTHOUGH ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE FOR REPAIR OF THE SHIP ONLY, THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT SASEBO WILL EVENTUALLY BE ASKED TO BE THE MUSTU'S HOME PORT. ALTHOUGH THIS WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AND THERE WILL BE STRONG PROTESTS BY FISHERMEN AND VARIOUS LEFTIST GROUPS, WE ARE WILLING TO PREDICT THAT SASEBO WILL ACCEPT THE MUTSU FOR REPAIR AND THAT THE CITY WILL BECOME THE SHIP'S EVENTUAL

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HOME PORT. IN ADDITION, IF THE AMBITIOUS PLANS OF THE MAYOR AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL CITY RESIDENTS WORK OUT, SASEBO COULD WELL BECOME THE CENTER OF NUCLEAR MARINE PROPULSION RESEARCH IN JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

AS REFTTEL POINTS OUT, SEARCH FOR HOME PORT FOR NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIP MUSTSU HAS BEEN MAJOR HEADACHE FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. RUMORS OF HOME-PORTING AT EITHER SASEBO OR TSUSHIMA, BOTH IN NAGASAKI PREFECTURE, HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR MONTHS. SASEBO MAYOR ICHIZO TSUJI SAID IN JUNE THAT HOME-PORTING NOT A BAD IDEA IF ADEQUATE SAFETY MEASURES TAKEN. TSUJI, WHO IS PRAGMATIC CONSERVATIVE, HAS DONE SOME WAFFLING ON ISSUE IN PUBLIC, BUT HAS TOLD US FROM OUTSET THAT

PAGE THREE RUADLTA6380 C O N F I D E N T I A L

HE FIRMLY SUPPORTS HOME-PORTING. MAJOR REASON IS POOR ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SASEBO. SASEBO HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SSK), CITY'S LARGEST EMPLOYER, HAS HAD ALMOST NO NEW ORDERS COMING IN, LIKE REST OF SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY. WHILE COMPANY OFFICIALS CLAIM PLANS TO BUILD MILLION TON DRYDOCK AT SAKIBE STILL NOT DEAD, THEY ADMIT CONSTRUCTION WILL BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, GIVEN GLUT OF TANKERS AND LACK OF ORDERS. REPAIR OF MUTSU AND EVENTUAL HOME-PORTING WOULD GIVE SSK MUCH-NEEDED SHOT IN ARM. IN ADDITION, DRAWDOWN AND RIFS AT FLEET ACTIVITIES, SASEBO, HAS ADDED TO CITY'S UNEMPLOYMENT WOES, AND MAYOR SEES WORK CONNECTED WITH MUTSU AS PICKING UP SOME OF THE SLACK. TSUJI HAS SAID RECENTLY CITY'S ECONOMY AT TURNING POINT, AND, WHILE THIS IS GREATLY OVERWORKED PHRASE, WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE. ADDED DIMENTION TO HOME-PORTING OF MUTSU WAS RECENTLY OUTLINED BY ZENZABURO TANAKAMARU, CHAIRMAN OF SASEBO TAMAYA, AND ONE OF TWO OR THREE MOST INFLUENTIAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL PEOPLE IN SASEBO. TANAKAMARU, WHO IS GRADUATE OF WASEDA AND CHAIRMAN OF UNIVERSITY'S LOCAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAPTER, SAID HE AND MAYOR TRYING TO GET WASEDA TO ESTABLISH FACILITY IN SASEBO. BEST PROJECT, ACCORDING TO TANAKAMARU,HAD APPEARED TO BE MEDICAL FACILITY, AND IN OCTOBER

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OF LAST YEAR PRESIDENT MURAI AND THREE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COME TO SASEBO TO EXAMINE FEASIBILITY OF EXTABLISHING MEDICAL SCHOOL IN CITY AS PART OF WASEDA'S CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION. WHILE THIS MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE, TANAKAMARU AND MAYOR,AS WELL AS OTHER MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN SASEBO, FEEL THAT CITY CAN BECOME NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER. WASEDA HAS GOOD REPUTATION IN THIS FIELD, SAID TANAKAMARU, AND SASEBO CAN BECOME RESEARCH CENTER ALMOST BY DEFAULT. OPPOSITION TO REPAIR AND HOME-PORTING OF MUTSU COMES FROM SEVERAL

SOURCES, PARTICULARLY PREFECTURAL FISHERMAN. THEY HAVE ALREADY STAGED LARGE DEMONSTRATION IN PORT, AND CLAIM THEY HAVE COLLECTED ENOUGH MONEY TO PHYSICALLY BLOCK HARBOR WITH FISHING BOATS FOR 50 DAYS. IN ADDITION TO PREDICTABLE OPPOSITION BY SOHYO, GENSUIKYO, AND OTHERS WHO MAKE MUCH OF FACT THAT SASEBO IN SAME PREFECTURE AS NAGASAKI CITY. AUGUST POLL BY YOMIURI SHOWED THAT MAJORITY OF CITY'S RESIDENTS OPPOSED TO REPAIR AND HOME-PORTING. IN LATE DECEMBER, JSP, JCP, KOEITO AND DSP FORMED A FOUR PARTY ANTI-MUTSU LIAISON CONFERENCE, BUT THIS WAS WEAKENED CONSIDERABLY WHEN DSP WITHDREW AT URGING OF SASEBO DISTRICT DOMEI. SASEBO HEAVY INDUSTRIES WORKERS UNION, WHICH IS DOMEI AFFILIATED, HAD BEEN IMPETUS FOR DISTRICT CHAPTER'S STAND. IN ADDITION, UNIFIED

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OPPOSITION WEAKENED BY DECISION OF THREE OF SASEBO CITY'S FIVE FISHERMENS' ORGANIZATIONS TO DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM PREFECTURAL FISHERMENS' DECISION TO BLOCK PORT, WHICH THEY CONSIDER LESS DESIRABLE THAN DEMANDING COMPENSATION. COMMENT: MAYOR TSUJI, WHO IS 72, ENTERED FUKUOKA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ON JANUARY 12 FOR CHECKUP, WHICH WILL TAKE ABOUT TEN DAYS, AND WILL BE UNABLE TO BEGIN CITY ASSEMBLY MEETING TO "ADJUST OPINIONS" UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER THAT. THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS WILL ALSO HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THE TIMING OF HOME-PORTING, BUT, GIVEN TSUJI'S SKILL AT BRINGING PEOPLE AROUND TO HIS POINT OF VIEW AND THE RECENT FISSURES IN OPPOSITION, WE FEEL SURE MUTSU WILL EVENTUALLY BE HOMEPORTED IN SASEBO, AND THINK IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE CITY WILL BECOME CENTER FOR NUCLEAR PROPULSION RESEARCH. END COMMENT. RICHARDSON

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